DC
SUICIDE SQUAD
65
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SUICIDE SQUAD
THE BEAST WITHIN!
OSTRANDER
YALE
ISHERWOOD
CAMPANELLA

RUN THROUGH THE JUNGLE!

JOHN OSTRANDER/KIM YALE: WRITERS
GEOF ISHERWOOD: PENCILLER
ROBERT CAMPANELLA: INKER
TODD KLEIN: LETTERER | DAN RASPLER:
TOM McCRAW: COLORIST | EDITOR

HUH.

GUEDHE SAY SOMEONE ON ISLAND SAYS GO LOOK.

CIA GUY TELLS ME, "SHRAPNEL, GO DOWN TO DIABLOVERDE. HELP GUEDHE. HAVE GOOD TIME. CRUSH REBELLION. BEAT UP PEOPLE. WE TAKE CARE OF ALL WARRANTS OUT ON YOU."

GUEDHE CRAZY. NO ONE OUT HERE. NOTHING BUT SHADOWS...

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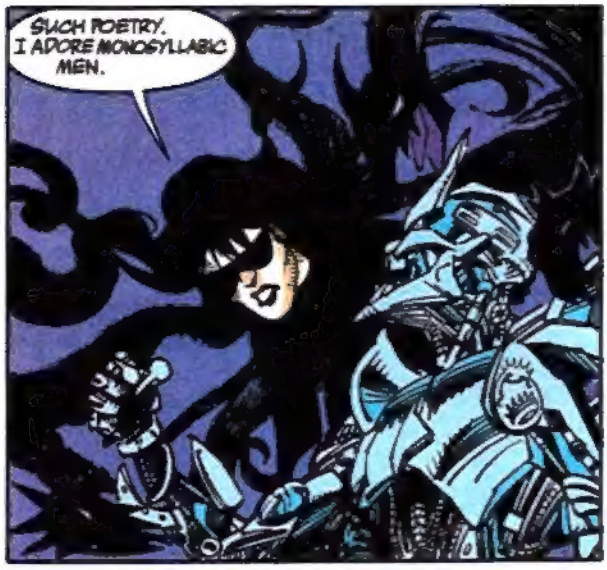
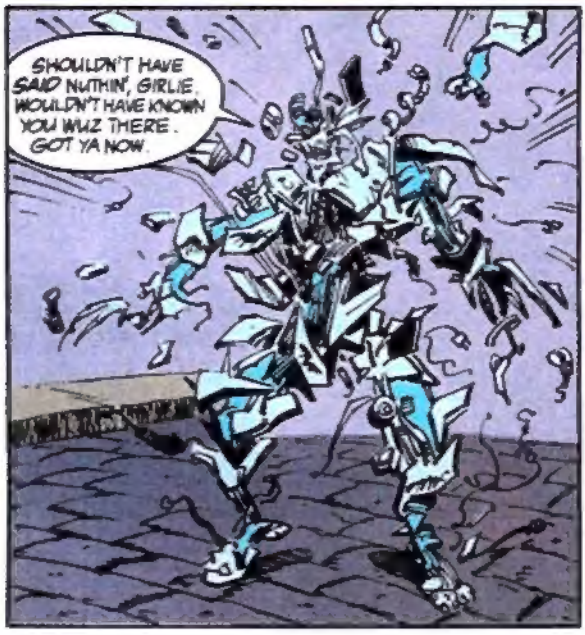
HUH?!


SUCH POETRY. I ADORE MONOSYLLABIC MEN.

WHAROOM!


SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID NUTHIN', GIRLIE. WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN YOU WUZ THERE. GOT YA NOW.

ONLY IF YOU CATCH ME, SHRAPNEL. LET'S FIGHT THIS ONE ON MY TURF.
TIPP
TIPP
TIPP
VOMP!

YAHAAHH!
TIPP TIPP TIPP
VOMP!
PING!
C-CRASHHH!
:TINKLE:

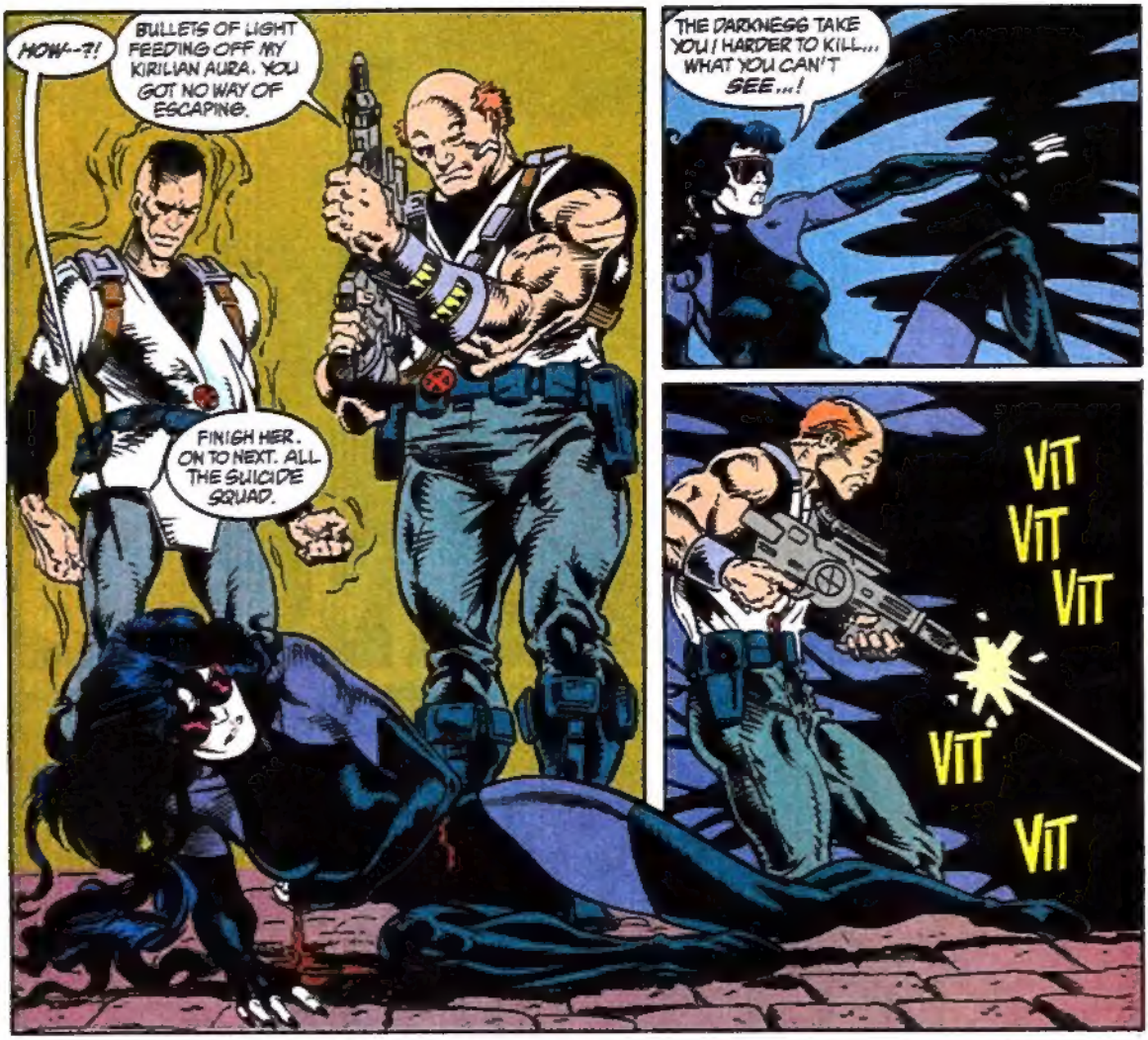
NIGHTSHADE. OVER HERE.
AMANDA?

WHAT'S WRONG? I THOUGHT YOU AND CARMICHAEL AND THE GIRL, MARIA, WERE DEALING WITH GUEDHE.
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR VOICE? YOU SOUND STRANGE...

HELL!
SSHWIP!

SORRY, BUT THERE'S NOT A CHANCE YOU CAN HURT ME WHILE I'M LIKE THIS-- WHOEVER YOU ARE!

VIT VIT VIT VIT VIT!
AAAAGHH!


HOW--?!
BULLETS OF LIGHT FEEDING OFF MY KIRILIAN AURA. YOU GOT NO WAY OF ESCAPING.
FINISH HER. ON TO NEXT. ALL THE SUICIDE SQUAD.
THE DARKNESS TAKE YOU! HARDER TO KILL... WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE...!
VIT
VIT
VIT
VIT
VIT

VIT
VIT
VIT
VIT
KALIBER, STOP! ALMOST SHOT ME!

DAMN! SLIPPED AWAY!
ALERT OTHERS. SHE WILL. FIND REMAINING TASK FORCE X. THIS IS NOT GOOD, KALIBER.

HELL! CAN'T SEE ANYTHIN' IN THIG STINKIN' JUNGLE BY DAY! HOW'M I SPOZED TO SEE ANYTHIN' BY NIGHT?!

FWIP FWIP
FWIP FWIP
WHOA!

THANKS FER PINTAILIN' YER POSITION, DOPE! NEVER WOULD'A FOUND YA OTHERWISE!
SCHRAAK!
OI! BLOODY HELL! I TOLD HER! BLEEDIN' WOMAN COULDN'T ORGANIZE A DRINK-UP IN A BREWERY! IF I CAN'T SEE HIM, HOW CAN I BLOODY WELL HIT HIM?!

UHNNNNN
MRS. WALLER TOOK YOUR INEPTITUDE INTO ACCOUNT, HARKNESS, WHICH IS WHY SHE PRIVATELY TOLD ME TO FOLLOW YOU, LET YOU DRAW THE FIRE, AND THEN MAKE MY MOVE—THUS.

INEPT, AM I?! I'LL GHOW YOU BLOODY INEPT!

THIS BLOODY DRONGO IS NEVER GETTING UP AGAIN!
THOK!
BROK!
YOW!
FASHHH!
KRUNK
OW WOW WOW WOW WOW WOW! MY HAND! I THINK I BROKE ME BLEEDING HAND!
HMM. THIS IS NOT GOOD. BOLT TELEPORTED AWAY. WALLER WILL NOT BE PLEASED.
THE PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
WAIT. I ALMOST FORGOT. ONE LAST THING I WANT YOU TO KNOW BEFORE YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER, AMAAAANDA.
REMEMBER THE CABAL? BUNCH OF GUYS WHO FORMED A SORT OF SHADOW GOVERNMENT INSIDE WASHINGTON? IT WAS THEM WE RAN UP AGAINST IN THE WHOLE ATOM FIASCO.
ANYWAY, THEY'VE DECIDED THEY WANT THE ENTIRE SUICIDE SQUAD DEAD AND--GUESS WHAT? THEY CONTACTED ME VIA MY MODEM. I'M HELPING THEM. THEY GOT PEOPLE HERE ON DIABLOVERDE TO KILL ALL OF YOU. YOU'LL JUST BE THE FIRST TO GO.
NOW YOU CAN PULL THE TRIGGER, AMAAAAAANDA!

CRASHH!
GYAH!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
ORACLE! SHUT CARMICHAEL DOWN! BURN HIS FREAKIN' CHIPS!
NO GOOD, AMAAAAANDA! I'VE ALREADY FIGURED OUT A PROGRAM TO KEEP YOU FROM FRYING MY MICROCHIP INSERTS! SOONER OR LATER, I'LL DOPE OUT A WAY TO KEEP MY MIND-CONTROL POWERS ON ALL DAY.
AND THEN I'LL COME BACK FOR A NICE LONG CHAT, AMAAANDA! WITH YOU AND AAAMY BOTH! T.T.F.N.!

DAMN!
DAMN
DAMN
DAMN
DAMN!

GO—WHERE'S THIS GUEDHE FELLA, GIRL? WE CAME ALL THIS WAY TO THROW HIM OUT OF OFFICE AND HE'S NOT EVEN IN HIS OFFICE!
HE HAS ANOTHER HEAD-QUARTERS DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, WHERE THE TWO LINES OF MOUNTAINS MEET. AN OLD PIRATE FORTRESS. THE ONLY WAY TO REACH IT IS THROUGH THE JUNGLE.

GOTTA RUN THROUGH THE JUNGLE, HUH? WELL, IF WE GOTTA, WE GOTTA.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND DEEPLY, SENORA WALLER. THE JUNGLE IS THE DIABLOVERDE--THE GREEN DEVIL.
THIS JUNGLE, IT IS A VERY STRANGE PLACE. IT IS FILLED WITH MAGIC. IT IS SAID THAT THE DIABLO-VERDE CAN RIP OPEN YOUR SOUL AND DEVOUR IT.

IF THAT'S WHERE THIS GUEDHE'S GONE, THAT'S WHERE WE GOTTA GO.
WHY, SEÑORA WALLER? WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO YOU? IF GUEDHE IS NOT TOPPLED, THE WORLD DOES NOT END.
BEYOND THOSE OF US WHO LIVE HERE, WHO IN THIS WORLD WILL CARE?
WHY DO YOU?

I STARTED THE SQUAD FOR *REASONS*, GIRL. I HAD *GOALS*. WE'VE NEVER COME *NEAR* THEM.

OH, WE'VE DONE SOME GOOD, IN SOME WAYS, SOMETIMES. I GUESS JUST ONCE, I'D LIKE TO SEE US DO SOMETHING *RIGHT*. THIS MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE

THAT'S ALWAYS ASSUMING WE HAVEN'T ALREADY TOTALLY BLOWN THIS JOB.

ORACLE, THIS IS WALL. CARMICHAEL'S TURNED AND GOTTEN AWAY. LET EVERYONE ELSE KNOW, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED *VERY* DANGEROUS. HOW'S EVERYONE ELSE DOING?

DEADSHOT AND IVY HAVE *THEIR* TARGETS; BOLT TELEPORTED AWAY FROM BOOMERANG AND VERTIGO. NIGHTSHADE TOOK OUT SHRAPNEL, BUT ANOTHER PROBLEM'S TURNED UP

"SOMETHING CALLED *TASK FORCE X* IS STALKING THE SQUAD!!!"

THOOM!

THOMP

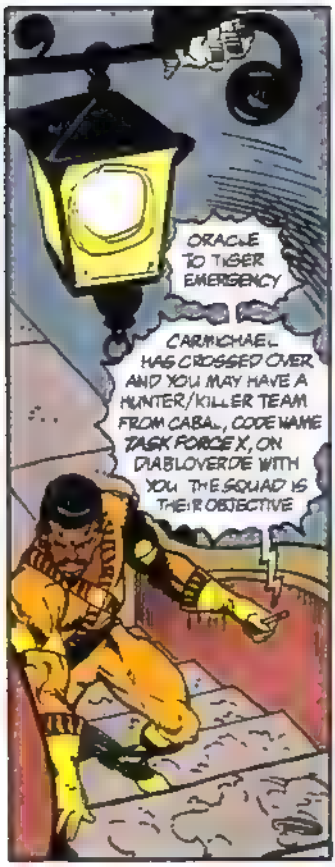
GIVE YA THIS -- YOU WERE A TOUGH BASTARD
WHUMP!

BUT YOU AIN'T BONE-DEEP MEAN. YOU NEED SOME YEARS DOIN' HARD TIME AND, BUBBA, I'M AFRAID THET'S JUST ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GONNA GET!

YAHHHHGGG!

PATHFINDER TO HQ THE SQUAD HAS A NEW MEMBER - JOHN HENRY MARTIN A.K.A OUTLAW.
I HAVE HIM DOWN BUT, DUE TO SUBJECT'S INNATE STRENGTH, COULD NOT FINISH HIM AT THIS TIME. PLEASE ADVISE.

LEAVE HIM, FOR THE MOMENT TARGET NIGHTSHADE ELUDED FELLOW AGENTS. WALLER WILL NOW BE AWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE
REGRETTABLE, BUT SHOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE IN FINAL OUTCOME.
THEN PROCEED WITH OBJECTIVES AND NEUTRALIZE THE SUICIDE SQUAD


ORACLE TO TIGER EMERGENCY
CARMICHAEL HAS CROSSED OVER AND YOU MAY HAVE A HUNTER/KILLER TEAM FROM CABAL, CODE NAME TASK FORCE X, ON DIABLO VERDE WITH YOU. THE SQUAD IS THEIR OBJECTIVE

WHOK!
CHOK!

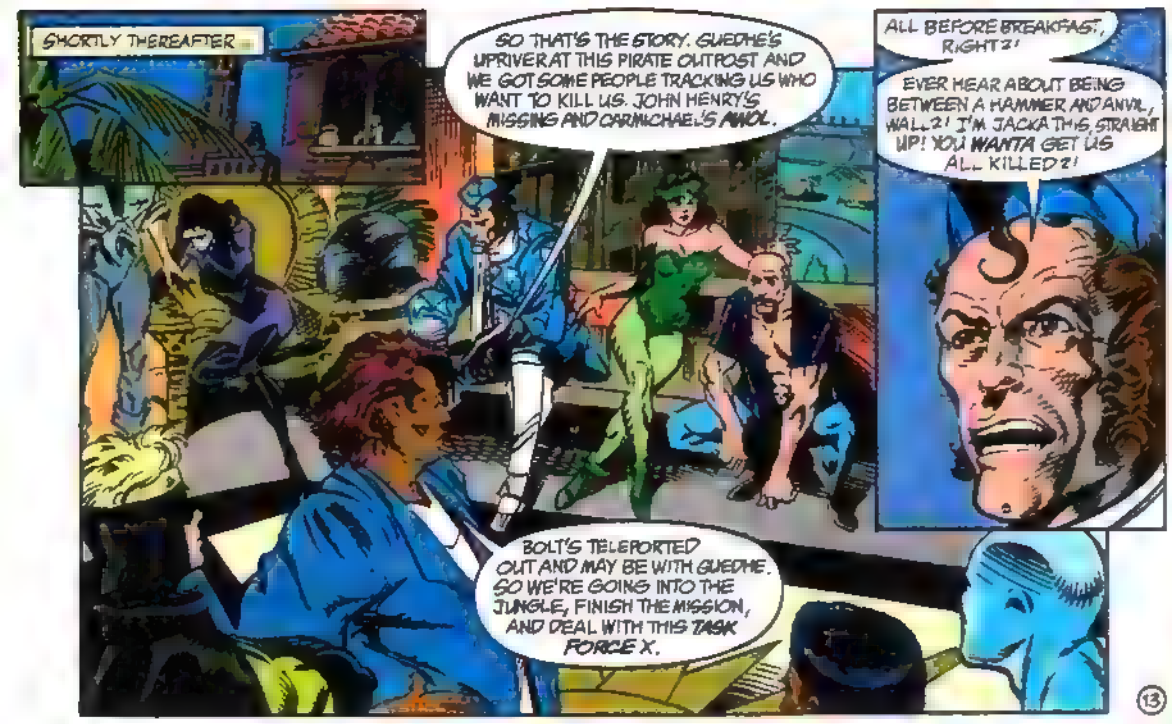
WHAM
WHAM
BEN? PLEASE RESPOND?

BEN? DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?
BLAM BLAM BLAM

I'D SAY SO
DON'T SHOOT HER! IF SHE'S NOT DEAD... ALREADY... WALLER MAY HAVE... QUESTIONS FOR HER!

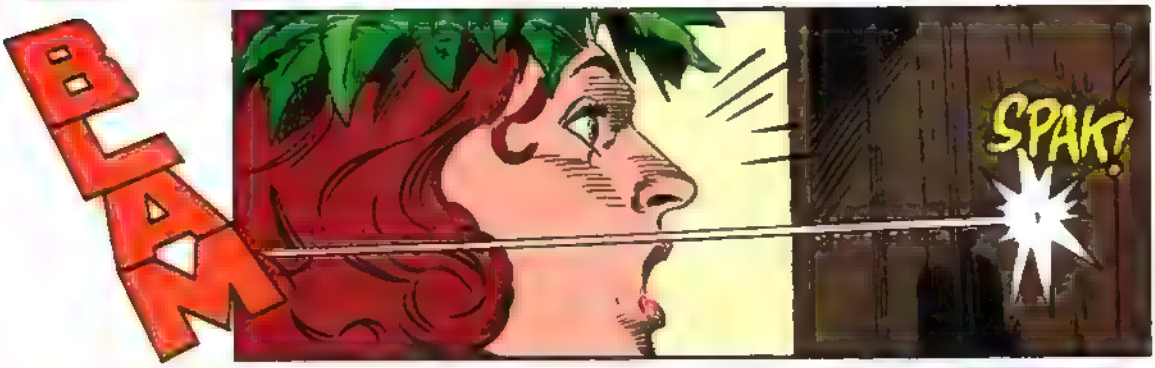
ALL THE SAME TO ME
DEADLINE... ALIVE...?

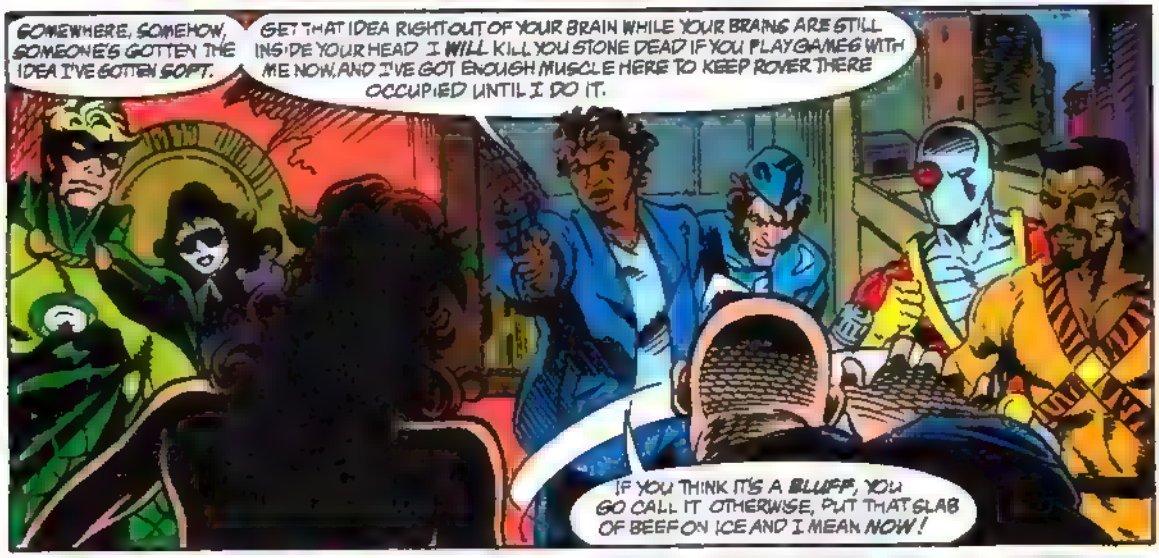
PROBABLY. WALL SAID NOT TO IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO
LEAVE HIM WITH THE OTHER WE GOT MORE PROBLEMS
ON A SQUAD MISSION? GEE, THAT'S NEW.
ORACLE, BRONZE TIGER HERE. DEADSHOTS WITH ME WHERE'S WALLER AND WHERE DOES SHE WANT US?


SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
SO THAT'S THE STORY. GUEDHE'S UP RIVER AT THIS PIRATE OUTPOST AND WE GOT SOME PEOPLE TRACKING US WHO WANT TO KILL US. JOHN HENRY'S MISSING AND CARMICHAEL'S AWOL.
ALL BEFORE BREAKFAST, RIGHT?!
EVER HEAR ABOUT BEING BETWEEN A HAMMER AND ANVIL, WALL?! I'M JACKA THIS, STRAIGHT UP! YOU WANTA GET US ALL KILLED?!
BOLT'S TELEPORTED OUT AND MAY BE WITH GUEDHE. SO WE'RE GOING INTO THE JUNGLE, FINISH THE MISSION, AND DEAL WITH THIS TASK FORCE X.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M ABOUT, DOWN-UNDER THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO COMING AFTER US, UNTIL WE FINISH IT.
SO WE PULL THEM INTO THE JUNGLE WITH US, WHERE WE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, AND THEN WE FINISH WITH THEM. GET ONE TO SPILL ALL ABOUT THE CABAL, BUST 'EM UP ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I GO NOWHERE WHILE THIS... SLATTERN... PLAYS THESE GAMES! THIS IS DEMEANING!
TO YOUR MALE EGO, PERHAPS. BUT IF IT WAS A WOMAN CROUCHING AT THE FEET OF HER MASTER, THAT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT, WOULDN'T IT? THAT WOULD BE SEXY.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO BE YOUR DOG, COUNT? WOULD THAT MAKE IT ALL BETTER?
OH, SPARE ME, GIRL! YOU'RE NO FEMINIST. YOU COULDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANOTHER WOMAN'S RIGHTS -- JUST YOUR OWN.
A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE -- AND A SLAVE IS A SLAVE IS A SLAVE AND YOU'RE A SLAVEHOLDER, DEEP DOWN. SO MAKE YOUR BOYTOY HERE TAKE A NAP AND LET'S GET ON WITH BUSINESS.
GO TO HELL. I QUIT. AND IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE ME DO OTHERWISE -- YOU CAN DEAL WITH SUDDEN DEATH HERE.
C'MON, BABY -- LET'S GO PLAY SOMEWHERE ELSE
14

IVY...


BLAM
SPAK!


SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, SOMEONE'S GOTTEN THE IDEA I'VE GOTTEN SOFT.
GET THAT IDEA RIGHT OUT OF YOUR BRAIN WHILE YOUR BRAINS ARE STILL INSIDE YOUR HEAD. I WILL KILL YOU STONE DEAD IF YOU PLAY GAMES WITH ME NOW, AND I'VE GOT ENOUGH MUSCLE HERE TO KEEP ROVER THERE OCCUPIED UNTIL I DO IT.
IF YOU THINK IT'S A BLUFF, YOU GO CALL IT. OTHERWISE, PUT THAT SLAB OF BEEF ON ICE AND I MEAN NOW!

SMEK

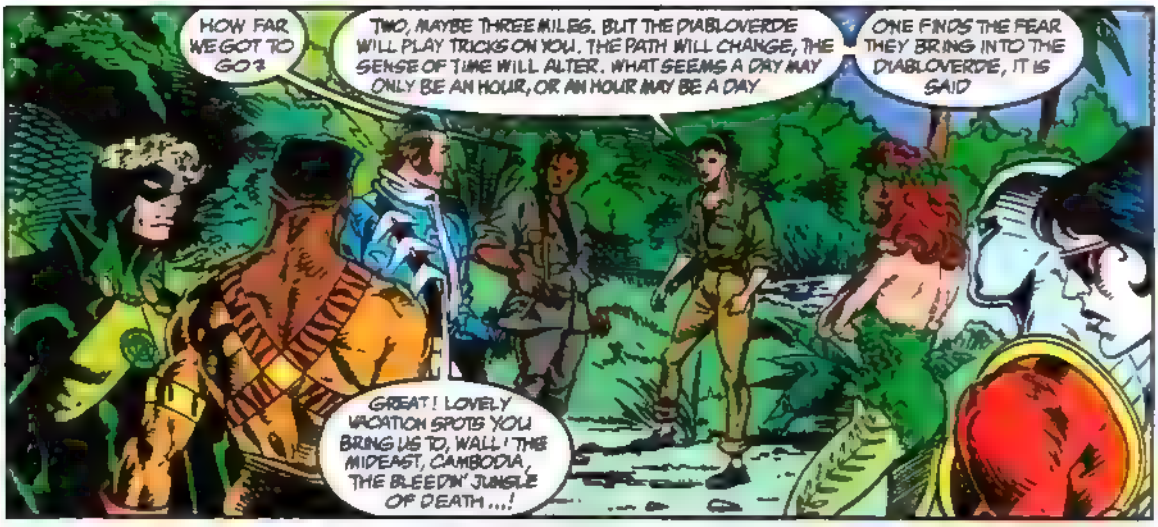
LOCO. TODOS ESTEDES.

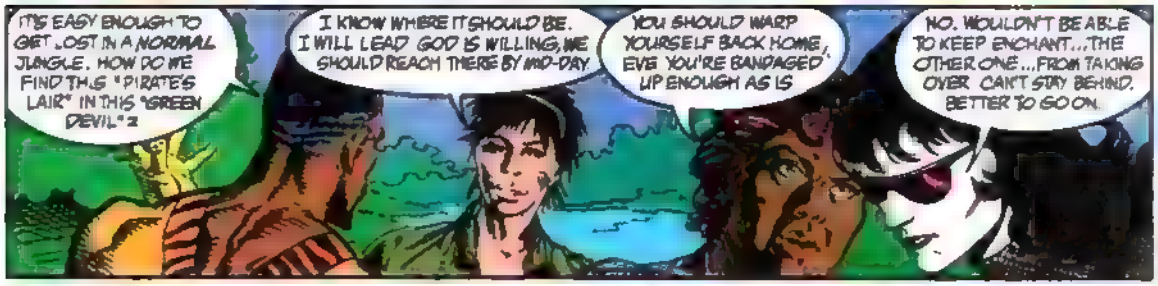
LET'S MOVE IT. GUN'LL BE UP SOON AND I WANT TO BE ON OUR WAY BEFORE IT IS.

"BESIDES, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THESE TASK FORCE X FOLKS ARE AT YET."
SHE ALIVE OR DEAD?
ALIVE. HURT BAD. NEED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

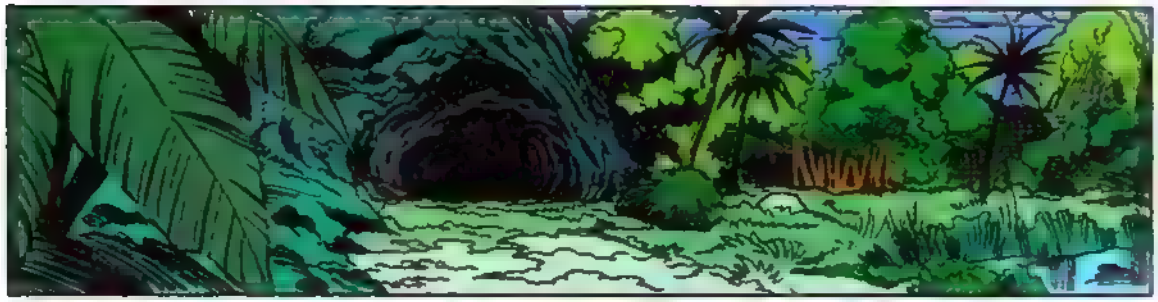
CAN'T DO IT. SHE CAN'T COME, EITHER. AND SHE CAN'T STAY. WE ALL KNOW THE PROCEDURE.
KALIBER. MAKE IT QUICK. WE GOT WORK TO DO.

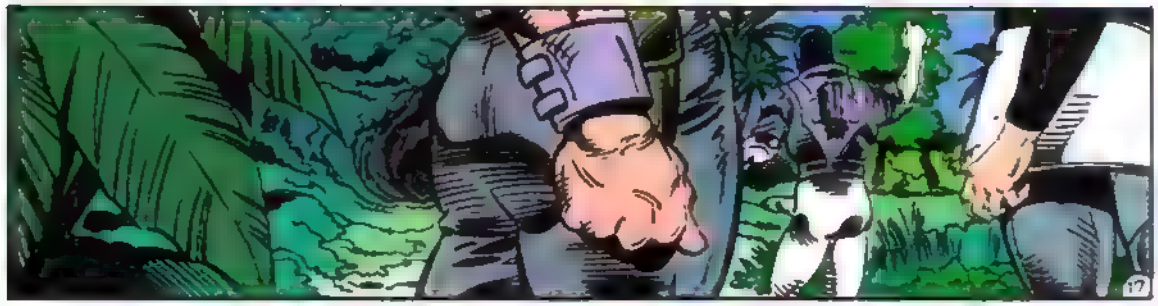
VIT
VIT
VIT
VIT


HOW FAR WE GOT TO GO?
TWO, MAYBE THREE MILES. BUT THE DIABLOVERDE WILL PLAY TRICKS ON YOU. THE PATH WILL CHANGE, THE SENSE OF TIME WILL ALTER. WHAT SEEMS A DAY MAY ONLY BE AN HOUR, OR AN HOUR MAY BE A DAY.
ONE FINDS THE FEAR THEY BRING INTO THE DIABLOVERDE, IT IS SAID
GREAT! LOVELY VACATION SPOTS YOU BRING US TO, WALL! THE MIDEAST, CAMBODIA, THE BLEEDIN' JUNGLE OF DEATH...!


IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO GET LOST IN A NORMAL JUNGLE. HOW DO WE FIND THIS "PIRATE'S LAIR" IN THIS "GREEN DEVIL"?
I KNOW WHERE IT SHOULD BE. I WILL LEAD GOD IS WILLING, WE SHOULD REACH THERE BY MID-DAY.
YOU SHOULD WARP YOURSELF BACK HOME, EVE. YOU'RE BANDAGED UP ENOUGH AS IS
NO. WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP ENCHANT...THE OTHER ONE...FROM TAKING OVER. CAN'T STAY BEHIND. BETTER TO GO ON.

LET'S DO IT, THEN. HEAD 'EM UP, MOVE 'EM OUT.





THEY ENTERED HERE. AN HOUR AGO, NO MORE THAN TWO

STEP MOST WATCHFUL. THE PATH IS TREACHEROUS. DON'T LET THE JUNGLE TEMPT YOU.

EH--?
GRRAADDWWLL!

YOU SOMEBODY I KNOW?
I AM YOUR ANGER. I AM YOUR PRIDE. I WILL BE YOUR DEATH.
GRAOONL!!
PERHAPS. BUT YOU WILL NO LONGER BE MY MASTER.
FOK!
FAWP!

RRRIIP!
YOUNG BEN TURNER. I WAS HOPING TO FIND YOU IN THERE

GERROTIVIT! ALL OF YOU!
I'LL KILL THE BLOODY LOT OF YOU!
STOP THAT LAUGHING! YA HEAR?! STOP IT!

THEY COME, GUEDHE.
I ZAPPED BACK, PICKED UP BLOCKBUSTER AND SUDDEN DEATH LIKE Y'ASKED. DEADLINE AND SHRAPNEL ARE OUTA IT, SO I LEFT THEM BEHIND.
BIEN.
DEATH FOLLOWS THEM. DEATH MOST SURELY AWAITS THEM.
I WILL HAVE THEIR LIVES. THEIR SOULS AND THEIR CORPSES WILL SERVE ME AFTER THEIR DEATHS. I WILL BE INVINCIBLE. AND THE SUICIDE SQUAD WILL BE NO MORE.
NEXT: THE FINAL CHAPTER OF THE SUICIDE SQUAD SAGA!
"AND BE A VILLAIN"!

SUICIDE NOTES

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Sorry I missed last month's column. Won't happen again. Honest.

ABJECT APOLOGY BOX: A thousand thanks and pleas for forgiveness go to inker/deadline saver ANDREW PEPOY who helped us out in issues #63 and #64, and who did not receive credit. Sorry, Andrew. Won't happen again. Honest.

Dear Suicide Squadders,

I guess John and Kim really *stuck it to* the new Atom! You really know how to *nail* your readers with a surprise ending. I like the way the New Atom story developed, even though I couldn't *pierce* his secret identity. I had Adam Cray *pegged* as Ray Palmer. But seriously, folks...

This current storyline is the best one I've seen since the Squad cut loose from the U.S. government. What I liked the best is that with the "Mystery of the Atom" we readers didn't have any idea how many issues the plot would continue. With "The Phoenix Gambit" and "The Dragon's Hoard" everybody knew everything would be wrapped up in the fourth or fifth issue. In this case, ignorance is bliss.

I trust that all the fans were happy with SUICIDE SQUAD #61, which had lots of both gratuitous violence and espionage action. I certainly was. SUICIDE SQUAD is a book that explores the dynamics of how meta-humans would affect the "real" world. Marlo's explanation of why the CIA wanted to control Ray Palmer made a lot of sense. The only problem with this idea is that the reason Superman and Batman are so effective is precisely that they put on masks and do whatever they want. If Aquaman punched a clock with the FBI, he'd soon be bogged down in red tape and standing orders and organizational politics; he'd soon be rendered ineffectual. Heroes work best by themselves or with each other. This is the reason behind the Squad's (relative) success. (I'm counting the Squad as "Heroes" in this case because they usually work to some sort of positive end. If the Wall was only after money, she could do a lot better than a million bucks a shot for unbelievably dangerous missions.)

John and Kim seem to be two of the all too few comics writers who make use of other people's continuity, not just their own. Who else would pay so much attention to what was happening to the Atom when his last series got *spiked*? (Oops.) And what other writers would dare acknowledge that Bronze Tiger once beat up the infallible Batman?

In the future, I'd like to see more of Mark Shaw, preferably with mask and power baton. The Squad already has a martial arts expert in the Bronze Tiger, and he overshadowed the ex-Manhunter in his last appearance. And how about a Checkmate guest shot? The Squad now has plenty of opportunities to run afoul of the government's own covert vigilantes.

Sincerely,
David "No Nickname" Crowe
58558 E. Paradise Lane
Scottadale, AZ 85254

P.S. I can't wait to see if Ray Palmer will be able to *pin* Cray's murder on the CIA Micro/force.

There's no point *in making light of the death of Atom Cray, "No Nickname." It's just plain* tacky. *Just because your wits are* sharp *doesn't mean you can* stick *jokes in here.*

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

Nice cover. It's good to have that Kesel guy still around. Seeing "The Big Three" in action makes a nice lead-in to the new Justice League which is debuting in a couple of months. As I understand it, all three will play prominent roles in this team. What would be really great is if a certain Mr. Palmer could also join up with that group. I'd like to think that that is what this latest Squad tale is leading up to, although I haven't seen the Atom appear in any of the JLA publicity yet.

I was quite sad to see Adam Cray join that great Squad-team in the sky as I was starting to like the little bloke. Still, if next month's cover is anything to go by, his death will not go unavenged, and I've got to admit that seeing the real Atom back in action did my heart good, even in that little black-and-white piccy on the letters page.

For me, the core of Suicide Squad is just four characters: The Wall, Digger, Lawton and Eve. Together they're four of the most interesting and entertaining characters in comicdom, although I've got to say that Oracle is quickly becoming a part of this core. I suspect that Cliff Carmichael is starting to outlive his usefulness. I'd prefer it if he wasn't retired permanently, though, because if anyone ever does get around to reviving Firestorm, he's going to need somebody to fight, and most of his Rogues Gallery has been killed off in this book over the last few years. Meanwhile, my other favorite character is Tresser, and I'd like to see a story involving him in the next year. Very little is known of the new (if indeed he is new in post-Crisis continuity) Nemesis, and an origin or history would be welcome, along with a threat from his past.

And to refresh your memories (as no one's done this for a while), a few suggested Squadders...Blockbuster (the new one to replace his brother who died in that first Squad mission), Cat-Man, Madman, Rainbow Rider, Riddler and Sudden Death. Also, is there any news on the Creeper yet?

Rock n' Roll,
Rol Hirst
(putting away his WHO'S WHO)
Rushgrove Farm
HD7 5TY England

Hey, Rol! Two out of six is pretty good, ain't it?

I'm not sure what the Creeper's deal is these days.

And I agree with your assessment of the four core members of the Squad, Rol, with one substitution: replace Eve with Ben. He may have been unstable recently, but Eve just doesn't need or care for the Squad the way Ben does.

* * * * *

Hi, Guys,

You know what I hate about SUICIDE SQUAD? Just when I start to like a character, somebody plunges

something through his chest. Gee, that's annoying.

Mary McCool
4611 Shelbourne Street
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Yeah, don't you hate it when that happens?

* * * * *

Re: SUICIDE SQUAD #61

This series is another reason why I am writing this letter. With the book in its hidden little corner of the market, I have fears that it may not survive for long. Then again, the 61st issue is out and spirits are high. Let me add mine. I have appraised this title's orientation as the "reverse development" of a hero, and its trend in espionage explores the life of many fine, though disturbed, people. "Legerdemain" Part 3 was all that I've expected and more, and "SNAFU" is putting it mildly.

Nice double-page splash pages by Isherwood and Campanella on pages 18-19. The Nightshade/Nemesis scene was well done.

I suppose some may be pleased with the Atom's death. I'm not, even if it meant the return of the original Atom. Adam Cray was a crook and his status allowed him to blend with the Squad. His mystique was also a nice factor, ranks high with the Duchess and pie-thrower subplots. We'll see how next issue goes.

Request: No, not for new members but for mission titles to appear on the cover for each story arc. We have seen some in the past: "The Nightshade Odyssey," "The Janus Directive," "The Phoenix Gambit," and most recently, "The Dragon's Hoard." In the past, I've felt this approach was an excellent market strategy as well as making each case stand out, as it may have been with "Legerdemain." Please consider this potential.

Another plea of mine is to return the poignant Personal Files. It has been one of my favorite expectations of the book since it allows us to see where the protagonists stood and where they were going. This transition breather in between missions is much missed.

Well, time to tzee, tzee, tzee, and vomp outta here.

As I am,
Arthur Lee

P.S. Expect my letters to be a monthly thing.

Thanks for writing, Arthur. But you should have started writing months *ago! Read on, pal...*

* * * * *

Dear Suicideals,

Overheard in the DC offices: "What's that, Dan? The Suicide Squad won't appear in SUICIDE SQUAD #60? It's going to have Superman, Batman, and Aquaman instead? FORGET IT! Either you put the Squad in on one page or we're changing the title to SUPER-TEAM FAMILY! We need to renew that copyright anyway!"

Okay, okay, I'm only kidding! Actually, I enjoyed SQUAD #60 quite a bit. It's great to see the Jihad again (I wish Manticore were around, though). It's been too long. And the Hayoth, too. Impressive. Who next, the Red Shadows?

Speaking of surprises, it has been a pleasant one to see the Micro-Squad again in this story. After the cancellation of POWER OF THE ATOM, I never expected to see them again. Of course, you shouldn't kill them; you'll need them when you give the Atom his own book again. Do this soon.

And the best unexpected surprise of all was Nemesis. As soon as Radb said it wasn't Marlo, I knew it was him. As you know, I'm still waiting for you to do more with Nemesis, like, oh, say, a limited series at the very least? Please?

Also, the pick-up of the Marlo plotlines from the Super-titles was completely seamless. Very well done.

Now please tell me something I read isn't true. I read in a letter in the *Comics Buyer's Guide* that SUICIDE SQUAD is being cancelled. Say it ain't so, Dan! This is a book that I truly look forward to with anticipation every single month! I love this "espionage crap"! If this horrible rumor is true, I will be very upset. I know it isn't the best-selling book in the world, but it is one of the most entertaining. It would be a shame to see it go.

Julio Diaz
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Well, here goes.

It is with great reluctance that I make the following announcement.

Yes. We're getting cancelled.

This really stinks, I know, but it's a done deal, and YES we have plans for the future.

About four months ago, rumors started flying, and there's no way to respond to them without hurting the book, so I just never acknowledged them. But here it is: next issue, #66, will be the final issue of SUICIDE SQUAD as we know it. Based on business considerations alone, the book should have gotten the axe a while ago (around #60, I think), but there was just too much story and character stuff flying around just crying for resolution. So with some smiles and polite meetings I have stretched it to here.

But #66 is it, I'm afraid.

I reckon John and Kim will have some words next issue.

It's rare these days to have creators stay on titles for 66 issues, so you can bet that John (and Kim, who joined him in the writing chores) is as upset by this as you all are. And me too.

I really like this book, these characters. And you can rest assured that they will not be lying fallow.

So I'll see you next month.

SUICIDE SQUAD #66: our last and final issue, called "And Be A Villain." It's a great one.

—Dan Raspler
Editor

NEXT ISSUE